

McGoff Agrees to Purchase Virginia Newspaper Chain

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Conservative publisher John P. McGoff, who owns more than 50 newspapers around the country, has agreed to buy the Globe newspapers in Northern Virginia, it was learned last night.

McGoff, who tried to buy The Washington Star to establish a "grassroots view" in this area, will take over May 1, barring unforeseen "snags," said Thomas D. Mansfield, spokesman for the McKeesport, Pa., Daily News, which now owns Globe.

Mansfield would not name the price of the newspapers, but said the purchase included the three Advertiser papers published by Globe and circulated in Maryland.

Gerard Schiappa, local representative for McGoff's Panax Corp., said the Michigan publisher was agreeing to buy the Washington area weeklies to make money rather than to have a vehicle for his views.

"This is a profit-oriented purchase," Schiappa said. "It would be wrong to assume he's buying them to have his voice heard. It's not as though the Globe papers are The Washington Post or The Washington Star."

Mansfield said the nine editions of the Globe and a giveaway shopping paper have a circulation of 60,000, which has increased since the Daily News Co. purchased them in 1969. The three Advertisers, which were acquired in 1970, and are published in the same plant as the Globe, have a combined circulation of 100,000, he said. Both operations have made a profit in the last two years, he said.

Schiappa said that McGoff has made a reputation for turning weekly newspapers into successful money-making operations. He owns 12 weeklies and a daily in California, 5 weeklies in Florida and 5 in Texas, and 23 weeklies and 6 dailies in his home state of Michigan. All make money, Schiappa said.

A formal announcement of the agreement is expected to be made this morning, according to Mansfield and Schiappa.

McGoff first tried to buy The Star in 1974. He joined with a group of Washington-area civic groups in protesting the sale of the newspaper to Joe L. Albritton, saying that the eastern-based media were "an old boy's club." In a 1975 interview, McGoff said that coverage of Watergate was overblown at the expense of reporting on the country's economic problems.

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